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~~SECRET~~ OSHA
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WASHINGTON - THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, RECENTLY NOTORIOUS FOR ITS PAST HABIT OF DROPPING LSD IN THE COFFEE OF UNSUSPECTING EMPLOYEES, NOW HAS BEEN CITED FOR LESS EXOTIC VIOLATIONS, OF FEDERAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS.

THE LIST OF VIOLATIONS RUNS THE GAMUT FROM THE MUNDANE (MISSING HANDRAILS RUNNING DOWN THE MIDDLE OF STAIRWAYS TO OTHERS THAT SEEM SOMEHOW APPROPRIATE FOR SLEUTHS (UNMARKED EXITS)).

THE ONE PUZZLING AND POTENTIALLY LETHAL VIOLATION CATALOGED IN AN INTERNAL REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA), RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC BY THE HEALTH RESEARCH GROUP, WAS THE PRESENCE OF CARBON TETRACHLORIDE IN CIA OFFICES EITHER AT LANGLEY, VA., OR AT UNDISCLOSED OVERSEAS HEADQUARTERS.

CARBON TETRACHLORIDE, A POTENT CANCER-CAUSING SUBSTANCE, WAS ONCE IN FAIRLY WIDESPREAD USE IN THE DRY-CLEANING INDUSTRY AS A SPOT REMOVER, BUT IT SINCE HAS BEEN BANNED COMPLETELY FROM THE MARKETPLACE BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION ON GROUNDS THAT THERE IS NO SAFE WAY FOR IT TO BE HANDLED.

IN A RESPONSE TO THE OSHA EVALUATION - A FOLLOW-UP IN 1977 TO AN INITIAL VISIT - CIA DIRECTOR STANFIELD TURNER PLEDGED TO HIRE AN INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST TO HEAD THE AGENCY'S WORKER SAFETY PROGRAM.

AN OSHA INSPECTOR HAD REPORTED THAT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM HAD BEEN PLACED IN THE HANDS OF A SECURITY OFFICER WHO WAS 'DEDICATED AND ENERGETIC' BUT MORE CONCERNED WITH LETTER BOMBS, DISPOSING OF EXPLOSIVES, AND MAKING SURE CIA OPERATIVES DIDN'T SLIP AWAY WITH CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS THAN WITH CLEANING UP THE WORKPLACE.

WHAT USE THE CIA HAD FOR CARBON TETRACHLORIDE, AS A SPOT REMOVER OR OTHERWISE, WAS NOT KNOWN TO THE INFORMATION OFFICER HANDLING PRESS QUERIES ON THE OSHA EVALUATION.

MUCH OF WHAT THE CIA WAS FOUND GUILTY OF APPEARED TO INVOLVE SLOPPY HOUSEKEEPING. EMERGENCY EXITS WERE BLOCKED BY STORAGE BOXES; ELECTRICAL WIRING WAS PLACED WHERE IT COULD TRIP UP EMPLOYEES;

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FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS WERE HAZARDOUSLY STORED; THERE WAS "VERY POOR HOUSEKEEPING IN A PAINT SHOP;" AND OTHER UNTIDY ODDS AND ENDS.

THE OSHA REPORT CONTAINED AT LEAST ONE OTHER ENIGMATIC REFERENCE TO AN "OPERATION KNOWN TO EXCEED NOISE STANDARD NOT BEING CONSIDERED FOR IMPLEMENTING FEASIBLE ENGINEERING CONTROLS...EMPLOYEES NOT WEARING FURNISHED HEARING PROTECTION WHEN EXPOSED TO EXCESSIVE NOISE."

- NOW WHAT CAN THEY BE UP TO AND WHY WON'T THEY WEAR THEIR EARPLUGS?

JG END FGGG

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